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Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

Rural District Council of Louth.

For the Year 1937.

BY

W. J. WILKINSON,

M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P., Lond.

Medical Officer of Health.

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**Public Health Officers of the
Louth Rural District Council**

Medical Officer of Health:—

W. J. WILKINSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Sanitary Inspector :—

W. M. TAYLOR, M.S.I.A., A.R.SAN.I.

To the Chairman and Members of the Louth Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1937.

1 Vital Statistics.

Area	-	-	153,129 Acres
Population—(a) Census 1931			16,681
(b) Estimated by Registrar General 1937 (middle of)			16,720
Number of Parishes	-		79
Number of inhabited houses Census 1931	-		4,620
Number of inhabited houses December 31st, 1937	-		5,386
Rateable Value at December 31st, 1937	-		£36,425
Sum represented by 1d. rate	-		£173

2 Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	M	F	Total		Total Birth Rate per 1,000
Live Births					
Legitimate	99	115	214	}	227 13·5
Illegitimate	7	6	13		
Still Births					
Legitimate	2	2	4	}	Rate per 1,000 total Births 22·0
Illegitimate	—	—	—		
Deaths	107	115	222		Death rate per 1,000 13·2

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth—

From sepsis	...	0
From other causes	...	1

Deaths—Infants under one year of age—

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	1	0	1

Death rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 births—

Louth Rural District	...	30·7
England and Wales	...	58

Deaths from Measles	...	...	...	2
„ Whooping Cough	...	...	...	nil
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	nil

The district death rate is 13·2 as against 12·4 for England and Wales and the average age at which death took place is again high.

Out of the 222 deaths during the year, 161 were of persons of 60 years and upwards, i.e., a percentage of 72·5 and a further analysis of these gives the following figures—

Between 60 and 70 years of age	50 deaths
„ 70 and 80	71 „
„ 80 and 90	35 „
„ 90 and 100	5 „

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.

There were 7 deaths of Infants under 1 year of age as against 12 in 1936.

The rate per 1,000 births is 30·7 which compares very favourably with the figure of 58 for the whole of England and Wales.

Deaths from Cancer.

There were 24 deaths from cancer as against 33 the year before, the average age at which death took place being 69. (65 in 1936).

In 18 of these cases the site of the disease was in the Alimentary canal, the areas affected being as follows—Stomach 9, Intestines 2, Rectum 3, Liver and Gall Bladder 2, Pancreas 2.

There were 3 and 2 cases respectively of the Breast and Prostate Gland, and one each in the Uterus and the Lungs.

3 Infectious Diseases (Notifiable).

Incidence of, during the year.

Diseases	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Small Pox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	8	2	—
Diphtheria	3	3	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Erysipelas	3	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Chicken Pox	21	2*	—
Tuberculosis	15	—	9
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Pneumonia	19	—	7
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute Polio-encephalitis	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—
Malaria	1	1*	—

* From R.A.F. Camp North Cotes.

The increase in the number of cases of Pneumonia is in my opinion due to the epidemic of influenza which occurred in the early part of the year. I also consider that this epidemic together with the wet, sunless summer of 1936 contributed to the increase in the number of cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases and mortality in 1937.

AGE PERIOD	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—
10-15	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
15-20	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
20-25	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
25-35	1	—	—	1	1	1	1	—
35-45	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
55-65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	4	3	2	3	2	3	3	1

Control of Infectious Disease.

On the occurrence of a case of Infectious Disease, steps are taken at once to trace the source of infection.

Instructions are given as to the isolation of the patient, and disinfectants are supplied. When the medical practitioner in charge of the case reports that the patient has recovered sufficiently, the house is disinfected with Formalin by the Sanitary Inspector.

Any case of small-pox occurring in the district will be removed to the Small-pox Hospital, at Osgodby, and the necessary steps will be taken to disinfect all clothes, etc., and to vaccinate or re-vaccinate all contacts.

Patients suffering from other infectious diseases are in exceptional circumstances, e.g.—difficulty of isolation, other illness, or an impending confinement in the house, removed to the Isolation Hospital at Osgodby and cases needing Surgical or other Special Treatment to Grimsby Isolation Hospital at Scarthoe.

Patients so sent away are expected to pay a reasonable share of the cost of their maintenance whilst in Hospital.

A stock of disinfectants which are supplied free for use in cases of infectious diseases, is kept at the following places—

Aby, at Dr. McNabb's Surgery.

Binbrook, at my Surgery.

Louth, at the Sanitary Inspector's Office.

Ludford, at my Surgery.

North Somercotes, at Dr. Gabbé's Surgery.

North Thoresby, at Dr. Stanley's „

Withern, at Dr. McNabb's „

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied free of charge, and can be obtained from the Sanitary Inspector, Council Offices, Cannon Street, Louth ; or from me.

4 Other Causes of Sickness.

INFLUENZA

was epidemic over the whole district in January and February but the symptoms as a rule were not severe and only 7 deaths were reported.

The usual period of incapacity in the adult was about a fortnight, and children generally were kept away from school for about the same time, 19 schools being closed for varying periods.

MEASLES.

occurred in epidemic form at Ludford, Burgh-on-Bain and Hainton in June and July, and at Great Carlton and Aby in October and November.

I closed the schools in each of these villages.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

occurred in epidemic form in Aby and Swaby in November and the schools were closed. In Aby the Whooping Cough epidemic coincided with the Measles and the school in consequence was closed nearly six weeks.

CHICKEN-POX AND MUMPS.

There were only a few isolated cases reported during the year.

5 Summary of Nursing Arrangements, etc.

General. There are District Nurses at North Somercotes, Hainton, North Cotes, Grimoldby and Authorpe.

For Infectious Disease. There is a Nurse stationed at Louth by the County Council, to visit cases of Measles and Whooping Cough reported by the school teachers, and to help in the nursing if necessary.

She is also available to help in nursing cases of Puerperal Fever and Ophthalmia Neonatorum, if required by, and under the instructions of, the doctor in charge of the case.

Ambulance Facilities.

A Motor Ambulance, maintained by the British Red Cross is available for the conveyance of non-infectious and accident cases. It is stationed at the Mason's Arms Yard, Louth.

6 Sanitation.

A summary of the work done during the year, will be found in Appendix Table 2.

7 Food Supply.

(a) MILK.

Mr. Adams, M.R.C.V.S., reports as follows :

During 1937 I have inspected the premises of all the Milk Producers in the district on various occasions.

The cleanliness of the milk and premises is generally satisfactory, and a number of structural improvements to the premises have been made.

Samples of milk dispatched for bacteriological analysis have proved satisfactory in the large majority of cases, and in no case were Tubercle Bacilli found in any sample.

There are about 105 Milk Producers in the area, together with a large number registered for the occasional sale of a little milk or butter.

A. H. ADAMS, M.R.C.V.S.

(b) MEAT.

During 1937 the 54 Slaughter-houses in the Louth Rural District have been inspected by me on various occasions.

The cleanliness, lighting, ventilation, drainage and water supply are satisfactory, and the quality of meat killed is excellent.

Owing to the large area covered all carcasses killed are not inspected, but all doubtful cases are notified to me, and inspected, so that the percentages of diseased meat found appears to be unduly high.

A. H. ADAMS. M R.C.V.S.

8 Water Supply.

The water supply in the district is, on the whole, satisfactory, the quality of the water being generally very good.

An analysis was made of 21 samples, ten of these samples which were taken from shallow wells were found to be contaminated and the necessary steps were taken to provide a satisfactory supply.

9 Pollution of Rivers.

The Beck at Grimoldby was again badly polluted by the effluent from the butter factory at the Grange.

The necessary steps are being taken to have the nuisance abated.

10 Offensive Trades.

The fell-mongers yards at Binbrooke, Marshchapel, Donington-on-Bain and Waithe, were carried on satisfactorily during the year.

11 Collection of Refuse.

In the parishes of Holton-le-Clay, North Thoresby, Marshchapel and North Cotes refuse is regularly collected and carted away to a dumping ground at North Thoresby pits.

12 Schools.

The sanitary arrangements at the schools in the district are on the whole satisfactory.

13 Housing.

Although the Council's scheme of building 24 houses has been delayed by the difficulty of securing suitable sites a good deal of progress has been made and Housing conditions in the district are considerably improved.

Sixty-nine new houses have been built by private enterprise, and in addition 36 houses have been reconditioned under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act during the year.

Altogether 106 houses have been reconditioned under this Act since the Council took over the administration of it in April 1934.

There are approximately 129 cottages in the district which are empty and have been uninhabited for at least six months. Most of these cottages are on big Wold farms but some are in villages, and practically all of them are fit for habitation.

The houses are empty on account of the depressed state of agriculture as the farmers cannot afford to employ as many labourers as they used to do.

In December an Inspector from the Ministry of Health visited the district and inspected many cottages.

As a result of his report the Minister of Health suggests that a survey of the cottages should be made as early as possible and it is hoped that this can be completed by the middle of 1938.

If the financial provisions of the new Housing Act which is expected early in 1938 are favourable, it is hoped that the Council will be able to extend their building scheme considerably.

In conclusion, I beg to thank the Chairman and Members of the Housing and Public Health Acts Committees for their continued kindness and consideration to me during the past year.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

W. J. WILKINSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

APPENDIX (TABLE No. 1).

Causes of Death in the RURAL DISTRICT of LOUTH during the year 1937.

	Males	Females
All causes	107	115
1 Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—
2 Measles	1	1
3 Scarlet Fever	—	—
4 Whooping cough	—	—
5 Diphtheria	—	—
6 Influenza	2	5
7 Encephalitis lethargica	—	—
8 Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—
9 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	4
10 Other Tuberculous disease ...	4	—
11 Syphilis	—	—
12 General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	1	—
13 Cancer, malignant disease ...	13	11
14 Diabetes	2	4
15 Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c. ...	14	11
16 Heart disease	29	38
17 Aneurysm	—	—
18 Other circulatory diseases ...	7	2
19 Bronchitis	—	3
20 Pneumonia (all forms)	2	5
21 Other respiratory diseases ...	2	—
22 Peptic Ulcer	1	—
23 Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ...	—	—
24 Appendicitis	—	1
25 Cirrhosis of liver	—	—
26 Other diseases of liver, etc. ...	1	2
27 Other digestive diseases	4	3
28 Acute and chronic nephritis ...	1	1
29 Puerperal sepsis	—	—
30 Other puerperal causes	—	1
31 Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	4	2
32 Senility	5	10
33 Suicide	1	—
34 Other violence	7	2
35 Other defined diseases	5	9
36 Causes ill-defined or unknown ...	—	—

Appendix (Table No. 2.)

Summary of Sanitary Work

DURING THE YEAR 1937.

Movable Dwellings Tents, Vans, etc.	{	No. inspected during the year	...	38
		No. of nuisances therefrom abated		0
		No. removed from district	...	4
Bakehouses	{	No in district	...	16
		No. of underground bakehouses		0
		No. of Inspections	...	28
		Contraventions of Factory Acts	...	0
		Defects remedied	...	3
Slaughter- houses	{	No. on register	...	55
		No. of Inspections	...	274
		Contraventions of Bye-laws	...	0
		Defects remedied	...	7
Cowsheds	{	No. on register	...	119
		No. of Inspections	...	540
		Contraventions of regulations	...	8
		Contraventions remedied	...	8
		No. of milch cows in district	2,000 approx.	
Dairies and Milk Shops.	{	No. on register	...	119
		No. of Inspections	...	540
		Contraventions of regulations	...	0
		Contraventions remedied	...	0
		Any instance of disease attributed to milk during the year	...	0

UNSOUND FOOD.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. killed (if known)	—	—	—	—	—
No. inspected	374	48	27	410	327
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned	5	—	1	—	2
Carcases or which some part or organ was condemned	17	7	—	9	—
Percentage of the No. in- spected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	5.8 %	14.4 %	4 %	2.2 %	0.61 %
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	3	—	—	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	4	—	—	—
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with Tuberculosis	1.3 %	14.4 %	—	—	1.2 %

Offensive Trades	{	No. of premises in district ...	...	3
		No. of Inspections ...	...	3
		Contraventions of Bye-laws ...	...	0
		Contraventions remedied ...	...	0
Water Supply	{	Wells	New sunk (exclusive of new buildings) ...	2
			Cleansed, repaired ...	6
			Closed as polluted ...	1
	{	Public Supply	Area supplied ...	0
			Percentage of houses supplied ...	0
			New Cisterns provided ...	0
			Cisterns cleansed, repaired, covered, etc. ...	0
	Number of samples obtained for analysis			21
	Any insufficiency and where			various

Closets	{	No. of houses with privy vaults in district	not known
		No. of houses with pail closets in district	not known
		No. of pail closets substituted for privy vaults	34
		No. of pail closets repaired	0
		No. of water closets substituted for dry receptacles	0
		No. of houses with water closets in district	not known
		No. of water closets repaired	0
Drains	{	Drains examined, tested, exposed, etc.	72
		Drains unstopped, repaired, trapped, etc.	30
		Drains reconstructed	31
Sewer		New lengths of sewer laid (approx.)	200 yds.
Tanks, Filter Beds, etc.	{	Alterations to sewage disposal works	0
		Inadequacy of sewage disposal works or complaints as to smells ...	Aby
Cesspools	{	Cesspools rendered impervious ...	2
		Cesspools emptied, cleansed, etc. ...	0
		Cesspools abolished	0
Disinfection	{	Rooms disinfected	18
		(a) ordinary infectious disease ...	15
		(b) tuberculosis	3
		Rooms stripped and cleansed ...	0
		Articles disinfected or destroyed ...	0
		(a) ordinary infectious disease ...	0
		(b) tuberculosis	0
Nuisancos	{	Total number of nuisances during the year:—	
		(1) Abated as result of informal action by the Sanitary Inspector	67
		(2) Reported to Council Statutory notice issued	0
		Statutory notices not issued	14

DETAILS ON NUISANCES ABATED.

	After Informal Intimation.	After Statutory Notice.
Overcrowding	1	
Smoke	0	
Accumulation of refuse	11	
Foul ditches, ponds and stagnant water	17	
Foul pigs and other animals	2	
Dampness	0	
Yards re-paved or repaired	1	
Other nuisances	35	

Appendix (Table No. 3).

Housing Statistics for 1937.

<i>Total number of new Houses erected during the year :—</i>	69
(I) By the Local Authority	0
(II) By other Local Authorities	0
(III) By other bodies or persons	69
 1. <i>Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—</i>	69
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses in- spected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	155
(b) Number of inspections for the purpose	624
(2) (a) No. of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) (above) which were in- spected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 ...	43
(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose	60

(3)	No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	30
-----	---	-----	-----	----

(4)	No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	49
-----	---	-----	-----	----

2. *Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notice.*

	No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	39
--	--	-----	-----	----

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year.*

A—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 36, of Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1)	No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	4
-----	--	-----	-----	-----	---

(2)	No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—				
-----	---	--	--	--	--

(a)	By owners	4
-----	-----------	-----	-----	---

(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	—
-----	---	-----	-----	---

B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1)	No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	—
-----	---	-----	-----	---

(2)	No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—			
-----	--	--	--	--

(a)	By owners	—
-----	-----------	-----	-----	---

(b)	By Local Authority in default of of owners	—
-----	--	-----	-----	---

C—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13, of the
Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	5
(2)	No. of dwelling-houses demolished in persuance of Demolition Orders ...	1
(3)	No. of dwelling-houses subject to under- takings	1

D—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing
Act, 1936 :—

(1)	No of separate tenements or under- ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	—
(2)	No. of separate tenements or under- ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

4 *Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding.*

(a)	(1)	No. of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	23
	(2)	No. of families dwelling therein ...	23
	(3)	No. of persons dwelling therein	137 reduced
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
c)	(1)	No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
	(2)	No. of persons concerned in such cases 6½ reduced	
(d)		Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved	0

